

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 11, 17-18 and 20 have been amended. Claims 21-22 have been added. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims in this and other applications. No new matter has been introduced and support for the claim amendments can at least be found in the specification at page 20 line 2 to page 23 line 3, page 26 line 16 to page 30 line 7, and page 18 line 4 to page 20 line 1.

The present application generally relates to pattern matching and specifically extracting an area having the most similar image information. One limitation of the claims relates to executing primary pattern matching between first image information and second image information to extract a second set area having second image information most similar to the first image information of a first set area and executing secondary pattern matching between the first image information and the second image information in the extracted second set area. These features provide increased pattern matching accuracy in producing the positioning information because the method is not affected by the skill of an operator as in the prior art.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,825,845 to Blair et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 5, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 relate to executing pattern matching between first image information in a first set area and said second image information in a second set area within an area of the second image information to extract the second set area having the second image information most similar to the first image information in the first set area. Blair does not teach or suggest this limitation of the independent claims. Instead, Blair teaches determining positioning information based on the position of monuments designated by the operator. Since Bair fails to

teach pattern matching, and more specifically, extracting an area having the most similar image information without the operator designating the position of monuments, Blair does not disclose all the limitations of claims 1, 5, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 are not anticipated by Blair. Claims 2-4 and 19 depend from claim 1 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Claims 6-10 depend from claim 5 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Claims 12-16 depend from claim 11 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13 and 15-20 be withdrawn.

Further, one additional limitation of independent claims 5 and 22 not taught by Blair (or Maurer) relates to the frames displaying the set area for performing pattern matching. Claims 5 and 22 recite "displaying a frame showing said first set area and a frame showing said second set area on said display unit, and executing pattern matching ..." This limitation is not taught by Blair. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 5 be withdrawn.

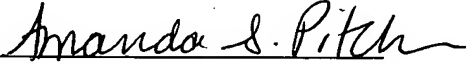
Claims 4, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,825,845 to Blair et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,354 to Maurer, Jr. et al.

Dependent claims 4, 10 and 14 should be allowable for at least the reasons mentioned above. Additionally, neither Blair nor Maurer, either taken alone or in combination, teach executing pattern matching between first image information in a first set area and said second image information in a second set area to extract the second set area having the second image information most similar to the first image information in the first set area, as recited by the independent claims from which dependent claims 4, 10 and 14 depend. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 10 and 14.

It is not believed that the amended and new independent claims, as well as their dependent claims, are anticipated by or obvious over the cited references. In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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